



# Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

## Chester County Economic Development Council, PA

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The Chester County Economic Development Council was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Chester County (population 467,000) is located just west of Philadelphia. Although the economy of Chester County historically was centered around steel production and railroads, heavy industry has all but disappeared in the county. To some extent, it has been replaced by pharmaceutical and information technology companies. However, the urban boroughs of the county have been left with old industrial sites, brownfields, flagging economies, a disproportionate number of citizens living in substandard housing, and elevated



### Assessment Grant

New  
2005

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Chester County Economic Development Council for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used for strategic planning, community outreach, and three to five Phase I and II assessments on sites throughout Chester County, especially in economically distressed urbanized communities. The major brownfields targeted all have histories of heavy "smokestack" industrial use, often dating back 200 years.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 3 Brownfields Team

215-814-3129

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bfs/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: Chester County Economic Development Council, PA  
610-458-5700

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

unemployment rates. In the hardest hit communities, more than 20 percent of residents live in poverty. Assessment of targeted sites is expected to facilitate cleanup of contamination detrimental to health and to potential development. Redevelopment will return abandoned or underutilized sites to the tax rolls, beautify communities, and bring much-needed recreational, commercial, and residential opportunities to some of the more depressed economies of the region.